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OGC HAS REVIEWED.

22 October 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/CD

SUBJECT: Intelligence Aspects of Soviet
and Satellite Law

1. After our telephone conversation, I had a talk with [REDACTED] of your office concerning his memorandum of 7 September 1951 concerning the possible establishment of a Legal Register in OCD. As I mentioned to you, the intelligence potential of law and legal developments in Russia and its satellites has been of considerable interest to this office and we have discussed it with various people without reaching any very definite conclusions.

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2. My guess is, and it is only a guess, that if a really thorough intelligence study were made of the legal developments of the last 20 years as a background to interpretation of the latest legal doctrines and developments, the results would be significant of local political, economic and social trends and possibly of general trends in the Communist complex. Such studies would require a staff of high qualifications not only in law, but in law as it applies to and affects nations and peoples. It would also require a specialized library kept current by the latest CIA could produce. Whether such studies are better performed by private institutions or by the Government, I am not in a position to determine, and if in the Government, I am not sure that CIA would be the place to do it. However, if it would be feasible, without too great an output of time and money, I think two steps might be taken:

a. a survey to see what is being done both within Government and by private institutions in the field discussed above, and

b. whether CIA should do anything about the present effort, or lack of it, including consideration of external research or establishment of projects within the Government in such agencies as CIA, the Library of Congress, or OIR.

3. If you wish to proceed, please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC/LRH:mle
Orig - Addressee
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